

AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In The Specification

In accordance with amendment practice pursuant to Rule 1.121(b), please add the Abstract, attached as Exhibit 1, to the specification. Because the abstract is new, a marked-up version is not necessary.

In The Claims

A. Cancellation of Claims

In accordance with amendment practice pursuant to Rule 1.121(c)(1)(i), please cancel the following claims:

Please cancel claim 16.

B. Amendment of Claims

In accordance with amendment practice pursuant to Rule 1.121(c)(1)(i), presented below is a "clean" set of "rewritten claims." A "marked up" version of these claims is attached hereto pursuant to Rule 1.121(c)(1)(ii) as Exhibit 4:

--1. Biodegradable heterophase compositions comprising (1) partially or completely destructured and/or complexed starch, (2) a polysaccharide ester, and (3) a plasticizer for the polysaccharide ester, in which the polysaccharide ester constitutes the matrix and the starch the dispersed phase,

characterized in that the compositions comprise starch and plasticized polysaccharide ester in a ratio by weight of from 1:0.6 to 1:18, the polysaccharide ester is plasticized with a plasticizer in a quantity of from 10 to 40% by weight referred to the polysaccharide ester and the

starch is in the form of particles or domains of average numeral dimension lower than 1 μm for at least 80% of the particles,

C2
C1
the biodegradable heterophase compositions further comprising an additive which can increase and maintain a pH of 4 or more for a solution obtained by placing the compositions in pellet or particle form in contact with water at ambient temperature for 1 hour with the use of a pellet/particles:water ratio of 1:10 by weight.--

--2. Biodegradable compositions according to Claim 1, in which the polysaccharide ester is a cellulose ester or a starch ester.--

REMARKS

Claims 16 has been cancelled. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Claims 1-15 and 17 are pending in the application. Each of the amendments is described in greater detail below in connection to the Examiner's objections and rejections. Additionally, unrelated to the Examiners objections and rejections, claim 1 has been amended in minor ways (e.g., the addition of numbering of elements and the addition of paragraph breaks) to aid in ease of reading the claim. It is submitted that no new matter has been added by the amendments.

Submission of Abstract

As requested by the Examiner, an abstract of the disclosure, as required by 37 CFR 1.72(b), has been provided on a separate sheet (See Exhibit 1).